



# Enforcement News

## **Southern California Environmental Firm Ami Adini & Associates is Target of Search Warrant in Fraud Investigation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Oct. 18, 2012

Contact: Kathie Smith  
Phone: (916) 341-5263

**SACRAMENTO** – On Wednesday, the State Attorney General’s Office executed a search warrant at Ami Adini & Associates, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Los Angeles. The search was conducted as part of an investigation of possible fraudulent claims submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board) Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund).

The search took place at Ami Adini & Associates’ office at 4130 Cahuenga Boulevard, Suite 113, Toluca Lake. No arrests were made, but evidence was seized as part of an ongoing investigation. The warrant was executed by agents from the State Department of Justice.

Ami Adini & Associates, Inc. provides environmental consulting services involving investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites resulting from leaking underground storage tanks. The company performs work at more than 35 sites in the Southern California counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, San Diego, and Santa Barbara.

“The State Water Board takes fraud against the State and the Cleanup Fund very seriously,” said Cris Carrigan, Director of the State Water Board’s Office of Enforcement. “We will continue to investigate indications of fraud against the Cleanup Fund and, where we discover fraud, we will prosecute criminally and/or civilly to the fullest extent allowed by law.”

This is the latest enforcement action based on audits and investigations by the State Water Board’s Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Prevention Unit. The Unit was formed in 2010 when a \$1.2 million judgment was entered against E2C Remediation, Inc., an environmental consulting firm based in Bakersfield, to resolve allegations that it overbilled the Cleanup Fund.

Since the formation of the Unit, investigations have led to the arrests of Kurt and Julie Hayden, owners of Hayden Environmental, Inc., who were charged with criminal and civil counts for fraudulently obtaining money from the Cleanup Fund. This is part of the State Water Board’s ongoing overall efforts to prevent and deter fraud against the Cleanup Fund.

A fact sheet on the State Water Board’s efforts to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cases of fraud against the Cleanup Fund is on the State Water Board’s website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications\\_forms/publications/factsheets/docs/fraud\\_efforts\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/factsheets/docs/fraud_efforts_factsheet.pdf)

